

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action mailed April 6, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 19 – 28 are pending. In particular, Applicant has added claims 19 – 28 and has canceled claims 1 – 18 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. The §102 Rejection of Claims 1, 3 – 6, 8 – 11 and 16 - 17 is Moot

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3 – 6, 11 and 16 - 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,880,672 to Weaver (“*Weaver*”). Without acquiescing to the arguments set forth in the Office Action, in that claims 1, 3 – 6, 11 and 16 - 17 have been canceled, Applicant submits that the rejections of claims 1, 3 – 6, 11 and 16 - 17 is moot.

II. The §103 Rejection of Claims 2, 7, 12 – 15 and 18 is Moot

The Office Action rejected claims 2, 7, 12 – 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Weaver* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,307,920 to Thomson (“*Thomson*”). Without acquiescing to the arguments set forth in the Office Action, in that claims 2, 7, 12 – 15 and 18 have been canceled, Applicant submits that the rejections of claims 2, 7, 12 – 15 and 18 is moot.

III. General Remarks Regarding Newly Added Claims 20 - 29

Although Applicant cancels previously pending claims 1 – 18, rendering their respective rejections moot, the remarks in the pending Office Action have been duly considered. Without acquiescing to the arguments set forth in the pending Office Action with respect to canceled claims 1 - 18, newly added claims 19 – 28 are believed to be patentable over *Weaver* and/or *Thomson*, separately or in combination, for at least the reason that neither *Weaver* or *Thomson* disclose, teach, or suggest each and every feature of claims 19 – 28.

Applicant acknowledges that *Weaver* appears to disclose an emergency indicator system for a single building (Abstract, FIGs. 1 and 2). The emergency indicator includes a display unit 16 and a remote visual display unit 50. (FIG. 1, col. 2, lines 19 and 50). Additionally, *Thomson* discloses a system including flashers installed at a window 20, under eaves 22, in a lighted address display unit or doorbell site 24. (Col. 7, lines 50 – 54). *Thompson* is further described as being capable of being used with structure such as “a single or multiple dwelling unit.” (Col. 7, line 59).

However, unlike independent claims 19, 24, and 28, the systems of *Weaver* and *Thomson* suffer from a number of drawbacks resolved by the claimed embodiments. For example, in an emergency, neither the system disclosed by *Weaver*, nor that of *Thomson*, is capable of routing personnel to a single emergency location among a number of other close locations in the same building. Thus, while embodiments of *Weaver* and *Thomson* may be characterized as being “capable” of being used with systems servicing multiple

locations within the same building, these systems do not appear to overcome a number of the drawbacks of conventional systems.

For example, apartment buildings or other similar infrastructure may have entrances for potential emergency locations that are not visible from the street, and may have multiple stairwells or hallways, a limited number of which that service a specific entrance to a location. Without certain features of the claimed embodiments, even assuming the features of *Weaver* and *Thomson* are present, emergency personnel may waste precious time finding the emergency location among a number of other close locations.

With respect to independent claim 19, neither *Weaver*, nor *Thomson*, discloses, teaches, or suggests a system having “light source located at an entrance of each of the plurality of locations” and providing “a light trail to the emergency location” by activating “the entrance light source located at the entrance of the emergency location” and a “group light source for the location group including the emergency location” as recited in claim 19.

With respect to independent claim 24, neither *Weaver*, nor *Thomson*, discloses, teaches, or suggests a method comprising “coupling a plurality of light sources to a switch,” including “an entrance light source located at an entrance of each of the plurality of locations, including the emergency location” and “a group light source for each of the plurality of location groups,” and providing “a light trail to the emergency location” with an “entrance light source located at the entrance of the emergency location and the group light source for the location group including the emergency location” as recited in claim 24.

With respect to independent claim 28, neither *Weaver* nor *Thomson* discloses, teaches, or suggests a system comprising “an electrical circuit having a switch operable from each of a plurality of apartments in the apartment community” including “an entrance light source located at an entrance of each of the plurality of apartments in the apartment community,” “an apartment group light source for each of a plurality of apartment groups in the apartment community, the apartment groups representing a collection of apartments in the apartment community,” and “a stairwell light source corresponding to a set of stairs used to access at least one of the plurality of apartments”; and providing “a light trail to the emergency location” with “the apartment group light source corresponding to the specific apartment,” “the entrance light source for the specific apartment,” and “a stairwell light source for the set of stairs used to access the specific apartment” as recited in claim 28.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 19, 24, and 28 should be allowed. Furthermore, dependent claims 20 – 23 and 25 - 27 are allowable as a matter of law for at least the reason that claims 20 – 23 and 25 - 27 contain all the features and elements of their corresponding independent claims.

IV. Prior Art Made of Record

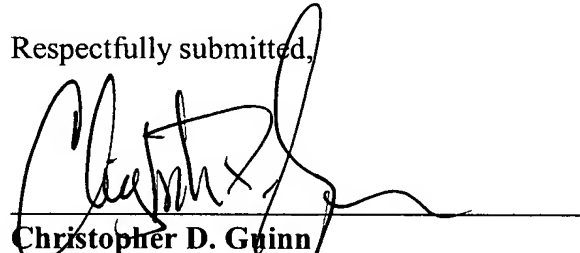
The prior art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are now in condition for allowance, and request that the Examiner pass this application to issuance. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with this response. If, however, any fee is deemed to be payable, you are hereby authorized to charge any such fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



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